

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11, 13, 15, 26-28, 30 and 36-50 are pending, with claims 1-3, 11 and 39-41 being independent. Claims 10, 12, 14, 16-25, 29 and 31-35 have been canceled and claims 1-3 and 11 have been amended. In particular, claims 1 and 2 have been amended for clarity and to recite that "the gate insulating film has a first thickness in a region where the gate insulating film is covered by the first gate electrode and a second thickness in a region where the gate insulating film is not covered by the first gate electrode, and the second thickness is thinner than the first thickness," as recited in allowed claim 3, and claims 3 and 11 have been amended for clarity. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 3, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 28, 30 and 38.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been rejected as being anticipated by JP05-243262 (JP '262), dependent claims 7, 8, 26 and 27 have been rejected as being unpatentable over JP '262 in view of JP06-148685 (JP '685), and dependent claims 36 and 37 have been rejected as being unpatentable over JP '262 in view of Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,013,928). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections in view of the amendment of independent claims 1 and 2 to include subject matter that the Examiner has indicated to be allowable over JP '262, JP '685 and Yamazaki.

Each of new independent claims 39-41 similarly recites that the gate insulating film has a first thickness in a region where the gate insulating film is covered by the first gate electrode and a second thickness in a region where the gate insulating film is not covered by the first gate electrode, and the second thickness is thinner than the first thickness. As such, the new claims also are believed to be allowable.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

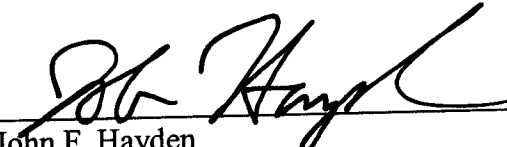
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The fees in the amount of \$180 for the information disclosure statement are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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